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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 25 August 1952

SUBJECT Notes on DDR Sulfuric Acid Production

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1. There is a shortage of pyrites in the DDR, and many East German plants have only about two weeks supply of pyrites on hand. At Coswig and two other unidentified plants, attempts are being made to roast low-grade pyrites from Elbingerode mixed with higher grade foreign pyrites.* The pyrites from Elbingerode contain only about 20 percent sulfur, and the sulfur content of the mixture of foreign and Elbingerode pyrites averages about 30 percent.
2. Because of the shortage of pyrites, sulfuric acid and superphosphate production has been cut down. Production of sulfuric acid from a gypsum base is being intensified. Only 50 percent of the Wolfen plant is ready for operation, and it has now been decided to put one more plant at Coswig into operation.** Coswig is to push production of sulfuric acid from a gypsum base.

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COMMENT: The Coswig plant is probably the VVB Alcid Schwefelsäure- und Superphosphatwerk, VEB, Coswig (formerly Fertilis, Chemische Werke A.G.). By Elbingerode, the VVB Vesta Eisenerzgruben "Am Büchenberg", VEB, in Elbingerode, Saxony-Anhalt.

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COMMENT: Probably the Farbenfabrik Wolfen near Bitterfeld (SAG Kaustik) is meant.

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